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CLAIMS LISTING

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1. (currently amended) A method for providing common data from a first source entity to a second entity, wherein said second entity is to perform processing [using] on the common data at the request of said first source entity using invocation-specific data, comprising the steps of :

transferring the common data from the first source entity [to] to be stored at the second entity;

storing the common data as stored data at said second entity;

associating a data handle to the stored data, wherein said first and said second entity each are aware of the handle; and

invoking at least one service on said common data by using said data handle and invocation-specific data.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising storing the data handle with the stored data.

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3. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said transferring and said invoking are done simultaneously and wherein said method further comprises invoking at least one successive service on said common data by using said data handle after said storing and associating steps.

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4. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the first entity invokes the at least one service by providing at least service [invocation information] invocation-specific data and said data handle to said second entity.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said first entity invokes a plurality of services on said common data by transferring

a composite service invocation to said second entity.

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6. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said associating of the handle is conducted at the first entity and wherein the handle is transferred to the second entity.

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7. (previously amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein the associating of the handle is conducted at the second entity and wherein the handle is overtly communicated from the second to the first entity.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said associating of the handle is performed by a third entity and communicated to said first and said second entity.

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein said associating of a handle is

performed implicitly by the transfer of said common data.

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10. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising transforming said common data from a first representation to a second representation.

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11. (original) The method of Claim 3 wherein said at least one service comprises data transfer across a network.

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim 3 wherein said at least one service comprises encryption of said common data.

13. (original) The method of Claim 4 wherein said at least one service comprises file I/O by the second entity.

14. (original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the second entity comprises a kernel and

wherein the service is provided by the second entity.

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15. (currently amended) A system for providing data handling comprising:

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a first source entity having first common data, said first source entity including a transmitting component for transmitting at least said first common data to a second entity and for requesting storage of said common data as stored data and an invocation component for generating at least one service invocation comprising a data handle identifying said stored data and service [invocation information] invocation-specific data and for transferring said at least one service invocation to said second entity;

a second entity for storing said common data transmitted from said first source entity as stored data, for receiving said at least one service invocation, for locating common data on

which to perform at least one service based on said data handle, and for performing at least one service on said common data; and

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at least one data handle component for associating a data handle to the stored data and for communicating said handle to said first and said second entity.

16. (currently amended) The system of Claim 15 wherein said invocation component generates a composite service invocation comprising said data handle and service invocation information for a plurality of services to be performed using said common data.

17. (original) The system of Claim 15 wherein said at least one data handle component comprises a component of said first entity.

18. (original) The system of Claim 15 wherein said at least one data handle component comprises a component of said second entity.

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19. (original) The system of Claim 15 wherein said first entity is located in a separate protection domain from said second entity.

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20. (currently amended) A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for providing common data from a first source entity to a second entity, wherein said second entity is to perform processing [using] on the common data at the request of said first source entity using invocation-specific data, comprising the steps of :

transferring the common data from the first source entity [to] to be stored at the second entity;

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storing the common data as stored data at said second entity;

associating a data handle to the stored data, wherein said first and said second entity each are aware of the handle; and

invoking at least one service on said common data by using said data handle and invocation-specific data.